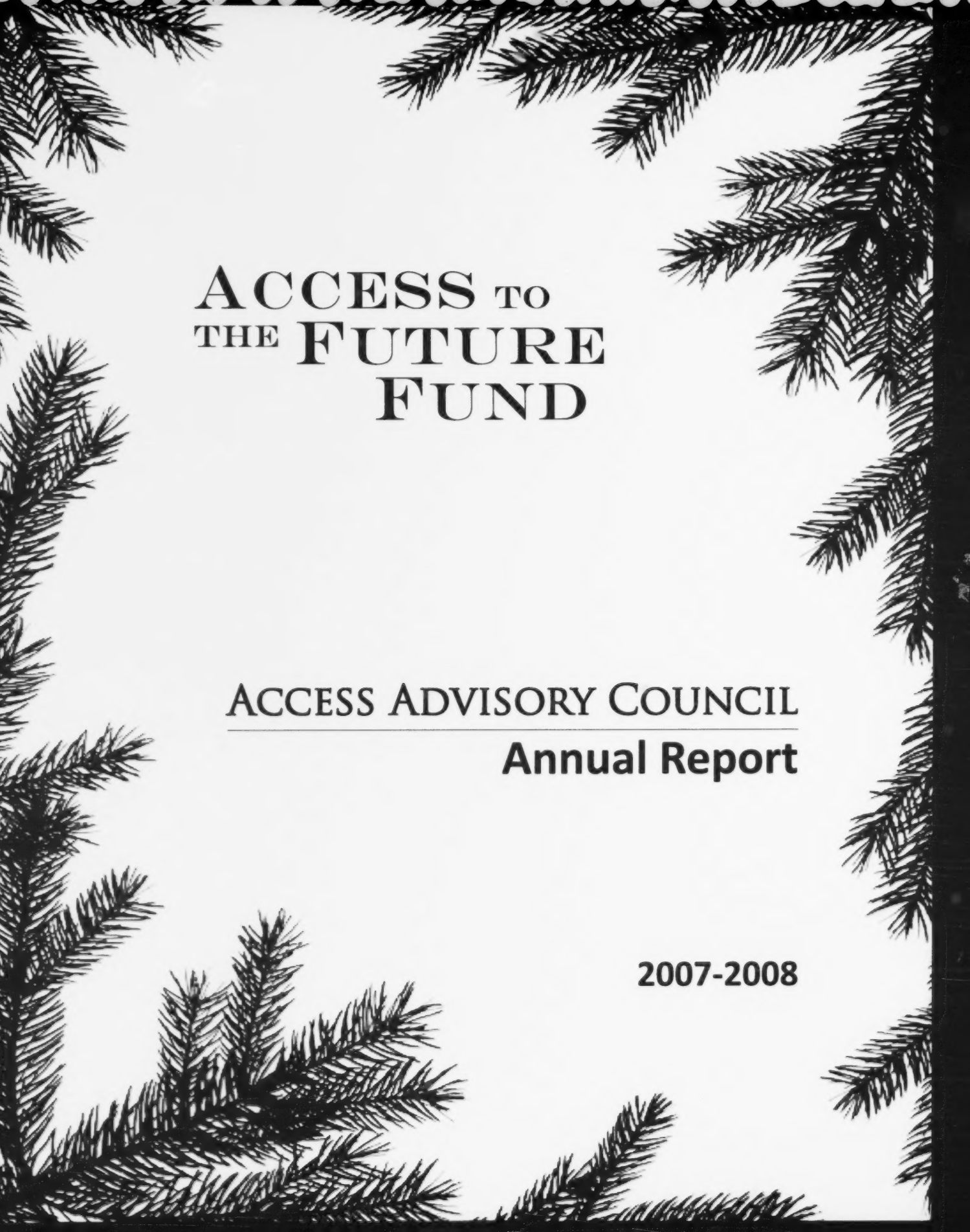

ACCESS TO THE FUTURE FUND

ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Annual Report

2007-2008

Access Advisory Council

http://www.advancededandtech.gov.ab.ca/college/aff/council.asp

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Chair's Letter to the Minister

The Honourable Doug Horner
Minister of Advanced Education and Technology
324 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Horner:

On behalf of the Access Advisory Council, I am pleased to provide its 2007-2008 annual report. This report summarizes the Council's activities, as well as the development of the Access to the Future Fund in its second year of operations.

The Access to the Future Fund was created to enhance and expand opportunities for Albertans to participate in accessible, affordable and high quality advanced learning opportunities. In developing our advice and recommendations, Council members focused on ensuring the Access to the Future Fund assists adult learning providers in responding to the needs of learners, the economy and society in the most effective ways possible.

A key step in furthering our mandate was accomplished in 2007-2008 with the launch of the Innovation Fund program. This project-based program supports the Campus Alberta vision by funding innovative and collaborative approaches to increasing participation in advanced learning opportunities. Funding was provided for fifteen projects across Alberta, enabling publicly funded post-secondary institutions, community-based learning providers, Aboriginal colleges and other partners to begin implementing leading-edge initiatives.

The Access to the Future Fund continued to match donations through its Renaissance Fund program. Matching funding enhanced the sustainability of the advanced learning system by encouraging philanthropic contributions to post-secondary institutions. Additionally, the Renaissance Fund made its first matching payments in support of the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board Family of Scholarships.

Over the past year, the Council has been aware of the development of the ministry's *Roles and Mandates Policy Framework for Alberta's Publicly Funded Advanced Education System* and the *Alberta Access Planning Framework*. These evolving directions have and will continue to inform discussions of the Council, including the development of its mandated third year review of the Access to the Future Fund. The Council is dedicated to continue working in a manner that is consistent with the evolving needs of the advanced learning system and that demonstrates that further investment in the Access to the Future Fund is a sound way to promote the principles of Campus Alberta.

Sincerely,

Terrance E. Royer
Chair, Access Advisory Council

Access to the Future Fund Overview

The Government of Alberta created the Access to the Future Fund to enhance and expand accessible, affordable and high quality learning opportunities within the advanced learning system.

The Fund focuses on fostering collaborative and innovative approaches to increasing participation in advanced learning, as well as leveraging increased private-sector donations to post-secondary institutions. It provides matching grants and funds innovative projects focused on helping advanced education providers respond to the needs of learners, the economy and society in the most effective ways possible.

The Access to the Future Fund consists of two programs: the Renaissance Fund matching program and the project-based Innovation Fund.

Established in 2005 by the *Access to the Future Act*, the Access to the Future Fund receives income from an endowment currently valued at $1 billion that is held within the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

The Minister of Advanced Education and Technology administers the Access to the Future Fund based on advice and recommendations from the Access Advisory Council. Financial reporting, including the Access to the Future Fund audited financial statements, is incorporated into the ministry's annual report.

Access Advisory Council Overview

The Access Advisory Council provides strategic advice and recommendations to the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology regarding the Access to the Future Fund's objectives, operation and reporting.

The Council was tasked with the following deliverables when it was appointed in July 2006:

- developing application, evaluation and accountability processes;
- reviewing proposals and identifying projects to be funded;
- monitoring successes and outcomes of the Fund; and
- reporting on the Fund's activities.

In 2007-2008, the Council held quarterly meetings and met with a variety of stakeholders to accomplish the following:

- launch the Innovation Fund program, including developing recommendations to the Minister on projects to be funded;
- oversee the continued operation of the Renaissance Fund matching program;
- build relationships with stakeholders, including publicly funded post-secondary institutions, Aboriginal colleges, student organizations and others; and
- provide input for and increase understanding of government directions, including the *Roles and Mandates Policy Framework* and the *Public Agencies Governance Framework*.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Renaissance Fund

A total of $42.5 million was disbursed through the Renaissance Fund matching program in 2007-2008. Over two years, this program has provided $85 million in matching payments to the advanced learning system. Eligible recipients, who receive an annual allocation from the Renaissance Fund, have the autonomy to identify specific uses for their grants.

Matching Payments by Use of Funds	2007-2008	Cumulative Impact ~ 2006-2008 ~	
Applied Research	$331,799	$1,082,799	1%
Endowed Chairs	$7,215,054	$14,468,844	17%
Equipment for Program Delivery	$4,231,440	$7,724,513	9%
Facilities for Learning and Research	$15,754,766	$31,094,768	37%
Scholarships and Bursaries	$10,111,989	$19,510,217	23%
Sponsored Teaching Positions	$700,000	$1,250,000	1%
Other Purposes that Enhance the Quality of Learning and Instruction*	$4,151,274	$9,868,101	12%
Total	**$42,496,322**	**$84,999,242**	

*includes initiatives such as program development, student supports, library acquisitions, etc.

Innovation Fund

The project-based Innovation Fund was launched in 2007-2008 to support innovative and collaborative ways to increase participation in advanced learning. A total of $7.9 million was provided to fifteen projects across the province to:

- leverage technology to facilitate collaborative efforts that will increase access to and the quality of advanced learning opportunities, including establishing standardized technological capacity for community-based learning providers;
- engage and support learners from groups typically underrepresented in advanced learning opportunities through increased supports, preparation and tailoring of programming;
- enhance learner pathways by piloting and evaluating initiatives focused on facilitating the transitions between various levels of learning and the world of work; and
- explore new ways to increase the availability of health care training through collaborative approaches that enhance instruction and make training more readily available to learners.

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Program Details ~ Renaissance Fund

The Renaissance Fund provides matching grants designed to stimulate donations to the advanced learning system.

Eligible grant recipients include public post-secondary institutions, private university colleges, Aboriginal colleges and the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board.

Each year, these eligible organizations are allocated a proportion of the total available funding and are given the flexibility to identify priority donations for matching.

In 2007-2008, $45 million in new funding was allocated to the Renaissance Fund matching program. A total of $42.5 million was disbursed following the review of submitted documentation. The remaining funds will be paid to eligible recipients in future years.

Minor amendments to the *Access to the Future Act* were made to facilitate the first matching payments in support of the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Family of Scholarships. Together with donations from industry, this grant resulted in the creation of 72 new apprenticeship scholarships.

2007-2008 Renaissance Fund Payments

Public Post-Secondary Institutions

	Payment (000s)
Alberta College of Art & Design	$671
Athabasca University	$1,200
Bow Valley College	$1,200
Grande Prairie Regional College	$1,346
Grant MacEwan College	$3,000
Keyano College	$1,200
Lakeland College	$788
Lethbridge College	$1,200
Medicine Hat College	$1,200
Mount Royal College	$3,000
NorQuest College	$1,200
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology	$3,000
Northern Lakes College	$293
Olds College	$1,200
Portage College	$632
Red Deer College	$1,200
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology	$3,000
The Banff Centre	$1,200
University of Alberta	$5,000
University of Calgary	$5,000
University of Lethbridge	$3,000

Private University Colleges

Ambrose University College	$200
Canadian University College	$200
Concordia University College of Alberta	$200
St. Mary's University College	$200
Taylor University College and Seminary	$200
The King's University College	$200

Aboriginal Colleges

Maskwachees Cultural College	$242
Nechi Training, Research and Health Promotions Institute	$200
Old Sun Community College	$200
Red Crow Community College	$200
Yellowhead Tribal College	$200

Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) Board

AIT Family of Scholarships	$725

Total **$42,497**

Program Details ~ Innovation Fund

The Innovation Fund provides targeted investments aimed at boosting the creativity and innovative practices of advanced learning providers, motivating a spirit of collaboration throughout Alberta's advanced learning system and increasing Albertans' participation in advanced learning.

Launched in 2007-2008, the Innovation Fund provides project-based funding to initiatives selected through a competitive application process. Eligible organizations are invited to submit project proposals for review by the Access Advisory Council.

Nearly fifty proposals were submitted via the Innovation Fund application process in its inaugural year. The Council assessed these proposals based on the extent to which they would further the Innovation Fund's objectives related to innovation, collaboration and participation.

Following its review, the Council made recommendations to the Minister on projects to be funded. The Minister accepted these recommendations and $7.9 million was provided to support fifteen projects across the province.

Innovation Fund Projects Funded in 2007-2008

Alberta Nonprofit/Voluntary Sector Community Capacity Innovation Project
Community Learning Network, Literacy Alberta, Volunteer Alberta
$2,000,000

Best Practices for Attracting and Retaining Learners from Underrepresented Populations
Alberta-North (Athabasca University, Grande Prairie Regional College, Keyano College, NAIT, Northern Lakes College, Portage College)
$327,000

Childcare Training for Low Literacy Immigrant Women
Bow Valley College, Calgary Immigrant Women's Association, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society and other community partners
$232,690

Clinical Skills Development Model and Technology Framework
Olds College, NorQuest College, Bell e-Learning Centre
$181,000

Curriculum Commons Model for Post-Secondary Institutions
Keyano College, Lakeland College, NorQuest College
$241,000

Enhancing Collaboration and Improving the Learning Environment - Utilization of Advanced Microscopy Equipment in Undergraduate Science Courses

University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge

$1,660,242

Health Care Aide Curriculum Enhancements

Keyano College, Northern Lakes College, Portage College

$82,500

Increasing Clinical Nursing Capacity - A Collaborative Clinical Instructional Model for Baccalaureate Nursing Education

Grant MacEwan College, Capital Health

$237,100

Increasing Programming Capacity for Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Education - Simulated Learning Environments

Grant MacEwan College, NorQuest College, NAIT, University of Alberta, Capital Health

$935,000

Nechi Program Recognition Project - Moving Forward

Nechi Training, Research and Health Promotions Institute

$498,377

Practical Nursing Education in Rural Settings - Models and Best Practices

Bow Valley College, Northern Lakes College, NorQuest College, Red Deer College

$146,000

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

Yellowhead Tribal College

$200,000

Secondary to Post-Secondary Career Technology and Trades Skills

NAIT, Edmonton Public Schools

$654,802

Text to Speech Technology - Supporting English Language Learners in Post-Secondary Education

Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, Hanna & District Association for Life-Long Learning, Keyano College, NAIT, Northern Lakes College

$293,549

Transitioning Rural Learners

Olds College, Chinook's Edge School Division, Town of Olds, Mountain View County

$205,000

Access Advisory Council Member Information

Terrance E. Royer, Chair, is the Executive Chairman of Royco Hotels and a former board chair of the University of Lethbridge. He has served on many public, private and volunteer boards, including the Alberta Ingenuity Fund, Mount Royal College's Board of Governors, and the management advisory board of the University of Calgary's Faculty of Management.

Harold Banister is the President of Banister Investment Group and an associate of Banister Research & Consulting Inc. He serves on the Edmonton Community Foundation's finance committee and is a former member of the University of Alberta senate.

Peter Freeman is a former board chair of St. Mary's University College with significant board experience at the provincial and national level. His professional experience includes time as the executive director of the Law Society of Alberta, as well as positions at the University of Alberta and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Michael Frey is a retired chartered accountant with extensive experience on boards serving his community including the United Way of Grande Prairie & Region. He has served as chair and trustee of hospital foundations and is a former board member of the Alberta Law Foundation.

Grant Howell is a retired human resources executive and chair of the Alberta Local Authorities Pension Plan, as well as other pension and not-for-profit boards.

Lou Hyndman currently serves as Counsel with Field LLP and is a former Alberta cabinet minister as Provincial Treasurer, Minister of Education, and Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs. He is a former Chancellor of the University of Alberta and former trustee and vice-chair of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research.

Pamela MacGillivray is a former high school principal and a former board chair of Keyano College. She has served on a variety of educational related boards and committees at the local, provincial, and national level, including as a former chair of the Keyano College Foundation.

Alan Moon is a former President and Chief Operating Officer of TransAlta Energy Corporation and is currently a corporate consultant and director for several publicly traded companies. He is also a board member of the Kahanoff Foundation and has served as a board member of many not-for-profit organizations.

William G. Sembo is Vice Chairman and Managing Director of RBC Capital Markets. He has served on many public, private and volunteer boards, including Calgary Economic Development, Calgary YMCA, Calgary Health Region, Calgary and Area United Way Campaign, and the University of Calgary's Faculty of Medicine Advisory Board.